



Attention: Joseph Jakuta
DOEE, Air Quality Division
1200 First Street, N.E., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002

January 9, 2023

Public Comments: Vehicle Emission Standards

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is pleased to submit these comments in support of the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment proposed rulemaking to adopt the California Vehicle Emissions Standards.

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment. CEHN is the voice of children's environmental health in the nation's capital, one that is uniquely informed by a strong basis in pediatric and environmental health science. We work on a range of public and environmental issues including healthy homes and climate change.

Although CEHN focuses largely on national issues, we also work at the state and local level. And, because DC is our professional home, we are particularly committed to the residents and children of the DC and their wellbeing.

CEHN supports this proposal because limiting harmful emissions (including greenhouses gases) from vehicles and other sources of transportation is essential to the health and wellbeing of DC residents including children today and in the future.

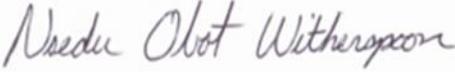
Vehicles emit a range of harmful pollutants, such as fine particle pollution, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide. Tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks combine with heat and air in the atmosphere to form ground-level ozone, or smog. Exposure to the pollution from cars and trucks can cause a range of health effects in people, such as asthma, lung infections, heart attacks, stroke, premature death, low birth weight, and cancer. Black children in the DC have disparate rates of asthma, there are also disparate rates of acute asthma attacks in D.C., resulting in emergency room visits. While there are many causes of asthma including poverty, stress, and other health conditions, neighborhoods with higher percentages of Black residents have more air pollution than neighborhoods with majority white residents.

The transportation sector is the largest source of climate pollution in the US. [DC is experiencing impacts from climate change.] In DC, vehicle emissions are 21% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adopting these standards is necessary to GHGs in the District and to meet reduction targets established in the Clean Energy DC Plan and the District's Climate Commitment Act.

In addition to this proposal to adopt CA's emissions standards, the department should also continue to advance ambitious and equitable electric vehicle policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nsedu Obot Witherspoon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH
Executive Director, CEHN